Rajiv Gandhi National drinking water Mission

2401. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the targets for the year 1992-93 under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): The targets for the year 1992-93 under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission and the State sector Minimum Needs Programme are as follows:-

(i) To cover 35,493 No Source problem villages and partially covered villages with potable drinking water benefitting 172.873 lakh people in the rural areas; and

(ii) To Complete the on-going projects for setting up of water treatment plants and water quality testing laboratories.

Strategy to tackle drinking water problem

2402. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the strategy and approach adopted by Government in tackling the problem of drinking water in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): The main strategy and approach during the Eighth Five Year Plan will be as follows:—

(a) To cover all the remaining No Source Problem villages;

(b) To provide safe drinking water to every habitation within a norm of one source for a population of 250 within a distance of 1.6 Kms. wherever this norm can be achieved, it can be further relaxed;

(c) To tackle the problem of water related diseases such as guineaworm, fluorosis, salinity in water, excess iron etc.;

(d) Emphasis on water quality through stationary and mobile laboratories;

(e) To upgrade the science and technology in puts and closer linkage with S & T institutions;

(f) People's participation and involvement;

(g) Proper operation and maintenance of water supply schemes.

Drinking water in Himachal Pradesh

2403. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government have drawn up a plan for providing drinking water in each of its village by the end of 1993;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to give any grant to Himachal Pradesh in this regard; and

(c) if so, the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) An action plan has been drawn up for 1992-93 for covering the remaining 337 No Source problem villages in the State by 31.3.1993.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to the normal allocation of Rs. 6.30 crores under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, the Central Govt. propose to release additional assistance of Rs. 4 crores during 1992-93 for coverage of these villages with potable water.

Labour in rural Agricultural Sector

2404. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ease the concentration of labour in the rural agricultural sector; if so ,the details thereof;

(b) what is the percentage of rural agricultural labour force of the total population of India; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to collect accurate data and verify them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) There is no proposal under Government's consideration to ease the concentration of labour in the Rural Agricultural Sector.

(b) The percentage of rural agricultural labour to the population of India based on 1991 census was 8.34 per cent.

(c) Population census data are collected through the decennial census conducted by the office of the census Commissioner and Registrar general of India as per prescribed instructions and methodology and there is built-in provision for supervision and verificaton of data.

Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Plan

2405. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Goverment's proposal for rural development and poverty alleviation;

(b) whether National Development Council discussed the issue in its last meeting; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) Government of India proposes to continue its efforts for rural development and poverty alleviation on a larger scale during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The two major centrally sponsored poverty alleviation programmes being Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY). The objective of IRDP is to create self-employment by providing productive assets and inputs to enable identified rural poor families to cross the poverty line. Assets are to be provided to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans having income below the poverty line. The poverty line has been revised from Rs. 6,400 to Rs. 11,000 for the Eighth Plan.

Another major programme i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is also being implemented with the main objective of providing gainful employment to the rural poor. The plan outlay for the Ministry of Rural Development has been stopped up from Rs. 10,955 crores during the Seventh Plan to Rs. 30,000 crore during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) During the VIII Plan, proposals are under way in consultation with the State Governments, for revamping the Rural Development Schemes particularly in the context of the 'the Basket of Schemes' mentioned by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission at the meeting of National Development Council (NDC).

Development of villages by voluntary Agencies

2406. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister made a statement in December last year requesting the voluntary agencies to come forward and adopt group of villages for comprehensive development;

(b) whether Government have prepared any blue print and plan of action of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any response has been received on the scheme from the NGO's;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (f) In the Conference on Accelerating Socio-Economic Rural